

# DOWNTOWN KELOWNA

November 10, 2020

City of Kelowna  
1435 Water Street  
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 1J4

Dear Mayor and Council and JoAnne Adamson,

The Downtown Kelowna Association (DKA) represents businesses and commercial property owners in the Downtown core of our City. The DKA acts in the best interests of our members to promote Downtown Kelowna as a thriving place to work, live and play.

The closure of Bernard Avenue from Sails to St Paul this summer was met with mixed reviews at its outset. Traffic during the first two weeks was exceptionally busy until the public announcement of Covid-19 in the Downtown area occurred. It subsequently took some time to rebuild traffic.

We appreciate participating and being provided the opportunity to offer suggestions, ideas, and concerns about the possibilities for further closures next year and in the future. We welcome all opportunities to be involved with discussions of projects that directly affect Downtown Kelowna.

In September, we executed a survey with the membership of the DKA to gather information about this year's closure from Sails to St Paul. The survey was split in two with one version for Bernard businesses and the other for all other businesses within the borders of the Association. Results were positive, for the most part, of closing Bernard Avenue and creating the pedestrian walkway.

In the results of the survey, businesses on Bernard are in support of closing Bernard again in 2021 in the 200 & 300 blocks from the Sails through to Pandosy. 57.9% support this idea while only 13% supported repeating the closure through to St Paul. Therefore, the DKA supports another temporary closure of Bernard Avenue from Sails to Pandosy in 2021. This would include the portion of Abbott from Bernard to Lawrence and Mill Street to the laneway behind Kelly O'Bryans. Further, we make note that this area needs more attention paid to cleanliness. The DKA can only do so much as this section of Bernard was the busiest during the closure and we do not have the equipment or personnel to stay ahead while still addressing issues of cleanliness in the rest of Downtown Kelowna.

The largest concern voiced by membership, particularly in the 400 and 500 blocks of Bernard, was the lack of consultation prior to the 2020 closure. While participating

restaurants and some businesses were positive about the closure in these blocks, the underlying comments referred to the lack of consultation, lack of programming, and lack of activity during the period of the closure. This resulted in what is felt was a lack of traffic in these 2 blocks. In the Report to Council, the suggestion is to create a "Green Street Project" in these blocks. In the description, plans are presented in 4 components with imagery of the vision. While the proposal addresses the concerns, we feel that consultation with the businesses in these blocks is necessary prior to committing to closing the 400 and 500 blocks in 2021.

The DKA continues to support the allowance for food service establishments to expand their patio spaces beyond their current footprint again in 2021. We support this allowance for all food service in Downtown Kelowna, not only on Bernard Avenue.

The Downtown Kelowna Association appreciates the consideration given to all Downtown businesses with this project as ultimately all businesses are affected when any road is closed in Downtown. We look forward to continuing to work with the City on projects that enhance the experience of shopping, living, and working in Downtown Kelowna.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Burley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Burley" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Burley  
Executive Director, Downtown Kelowna Association